

File 12A
RECON

Design in Bibliographic

ODP-9-270
15 FEB 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

FROM : Clifford D. May, Jr.
Director of Data Processing

SUBJECT: Bibliographic/Document Retrieval System Proposal

STATINTL

1. On 25 January 1979, Mr. Taylor (Comptroller), [REDACTED] (OCR) and the undersigned met with the DDCI to discuss subject proposal to the Information Handling Committee (IHC). Mr. May explained the background of the IHC and described the seven work areas the Committee is addressing. The IHC program in the Library Facilities area includes, among a number of specific goals, the goal of developing a Community method of disseminating documents and one of developing a Community bibliographic data base for intelligence reporting. In these areas the CIA's RECON and ADSTAR systems represent the most comprehensive and forward looking systems currently available in the Community. We have concluded, therefore, that a study should be conducted to determine the feasibility, desirability and costs of expanding the CIA's RECON and ADSTAR systems to serve the Community. We have prepared a proposal for such a study and are asking the DDCI's permission to forward it. The proposal would be addressed to the Chairman, IHC [REDACTED] and signed out by the CIA member of the IHC (D. May).

STATINTL

2. It was pointed out that there has been some Community pressure to expand availability of CIA index record files and some criticism of CIA for allegedly "dragging its feet." This proposal is a good faith offer of the CIA to study the feasibility, desirability and cost of expanding RECON and ADSTAR to serve Community needs. We have made it clear in the proposal that CIA does not have the resources to expand the systems for Community use and that the Community members will have to provide the resources required to expand and upgrade

the existing CIA systems. There was the danger that, at some future time, the Community might want to go ahead with implementing a Community system based on RECON and ADSTAR, and expect CIA to absorb the costs. However, the proposal we have prepared clearly states that the Agency is unable to absorb these costs. We wanted to be sure the DDCI was aware of this risk before we release the proposal to the IHC.

3. Mr. Carlucci asked whether we could get a firm commitment at this time from the Resource Management Staff to fund these additional costs from non-CIA sources. Mr. Taylor said he did not think this would be possible. Mr. Carlucci then approved release of the proposal.


Clifford D. May, Jr.

STATINTL

cc: DDA
D/OCR
Comptroller

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O/D/ODP/CDMay, Jr.:caj/14 February 1979